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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Creator and Sovereign of all, slow us down, we are moving too fast; we do not realize Your blessings until they are past. We jet at high speed to our destinations only to circle in holding patterns. Life also has its holding patterns when we must wait. We are not very good at waiting. We want everything yesterday. Help us to trust in Your timing. You are always on time. Keep us from running ahead of You or lagging behind. Today, help us to enjoy life as it unfolds, to live to the fullest in each hour, and to relish the sheer wonder of Your grace and goodness. Open our eyes so that we may see Your glory in the people and opportunities You give us. Unstop the ears of our hearts so we may hear Your guidance. Release our wills from the bondage of our controlling attitudes so we can act on what You call us to do. Replenish our physical strength so we can have resiliency for each challenge. So, if life dishes out a holding pattern today, may we use it wisely to remember where we have been by Your grace and where we are going under Your guidance. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Chaplain for that meaningful prayer this morning, as we are in a holding

pattern. I think maybe it is going to produce results very shortly. This morning, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the maritime bill, H.R. 1350. There will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the Grassley amendment No. 5391, regarding war bonus, also with a vote on the motion to table that amendment occurring at 10 a.m. this morning.

We have been unable to reach an agreement, or we were last night, but we feel that maybe progress is being made now and we can get an agreement shortly, so that we can complete the amendments that are desired by some of the Senators to be offered and get to final passage on this very important maritime legislation.

Members can expect additional votes beyond the 10 a.m. vote on or in relation to amendments to the bill. As all Senators are aware, we are fast approaching adjournment and there are a number of other important issues yet to be resolved. So I hope all Senators will accommodate this schedule.

We have indicated throughout the last couple of months that we should expect votes on Friday, at least up until noon. We hope we can get this bill finished by then, and we would not be back in session until Tuesday morning beginning at 9:30. We may be asked to consider other legislative items that are cleared for action. We are still looking for other appropriations conference reports that may be coming over, perhaps not today, but we have at least one more we think we may be able to take up early next week. I thank all Senators in advance for their cooperation.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MARITIME SECURITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1350, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1350) to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to revitalize the United States flag merchant marine, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Grassley amendment No. 5391, to provide for a uniform system of incentive pay for certain hazardous duties performed by merchant seamen.

AMENDMENT NO. 5391

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period of 30 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the motion to table the Grassley amendment No. 5391.

Who seeks time?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during wartime, in an area where there is military conflict between the United States and an opponent, there are legitimate war bonuses paid to people in the military for serving under more severe conditions, and there are also war bonuses paid to our seafarers for serving under those same conditions. The only problem is that there is a great inequity between what the seafarers get as a bonus and what our regular military gets paid. The purpose of this amendment is to make sure that those bonuses are the same.

So my amendment, which is about to be voted on at 10 o'clock, represents common sense. What people don't like about Washington is they see their money being wasted because we don't

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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